

MCA ADVISORY

Number 3, March 2000

**An Occasional Publication of Medal Collectors of America
Post Office Box 780; Mahopac, NY 10541**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING, AUGUST 12, 1999

The Rosemont Convention Center was the site for MCA's Second Annual Meeting, a highlight of the American Numismatic Association's convention officially billed as "Chicago," but actually convened at this suburban location adjoining O'Hare International Airport.

Our reception by ANA was outstanding as always. We enjoyed marvelous cooperation from our good colleague Brenda Bishop of Convention Services. We were quickly assigned a comfortable, centrally located room in the convention center, on the day and hour we wanted. One objective was to avoid conflict with other specialty organizations also meeting at the ANA, and this was certainly achieved. We wrote our first check to assure MCA's club membership in ANA, and we are officially Club Member C-186457.

With 29 members in attendance, MCA may have set an ANA convention record for speed and harmony. In a little over 45 minutes, we elected a full slate of officers, adopted a constitution, announced our first recipient of the Carl W.A. Carlson Award and tabled a logo. With near unanimity of essential points, MCA made amazing progress in all areas. The full stories of our first election, the bestowal of the first Carlson Award and constitution appear in greater detail elsewhere in this issue of the *MCA Advisory*.

Regarding a logo, members will recall the straw poll taken about a logo for our organization in the pre-convention newsletter. We were honored by three designs created by the famous Russian-born sculptor-medalist Alex Shagin. Brother Shagin provided this work free of charge, as a contribution to MCA. However, a clear majority of members felt that none of the designs in the newsletter really personified MCA to them and the members present at our meeting voted to continue our search for a suitable emblem.

One of the first members, Doug Thurber, submitted copies of his own design. The Thurber submission is reproduced below, along with a sketch by your President. The views of our members on these two suggestions will also be welcomed. We'll get there yet! In the meantime, MCA extends to Alex Shagin its most heartfelt thanks for his exceedingly generous support in this vital matter.

Please compare these two designs to the ones shown in the last newsletter. Please let us know if you prefer any one of them for the official MCA logo. (Please remember that these two new ones are only SKETCHES, unlike the professional work of our good colleague Alex Shagin!)



Thurber



Alexander

David T. Alexander, MCA President-Editor

MEET YOUR OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

At the August 1998 organizational meeting, MCA elected a Steering Committee consisting of David T. Alexander (President-Editor pro tem), Paul Boseo, Michael J. Hodder and R.W. Julian. This committee served until our second meeting and performed a great deal of labor in the successful launching of MCA.

The following members were elected as our first officers and directors at the August 12, 1999 meeting:

President, David T. Alexander, Mahopae, N.Y.

Vice President, Michael J. Hodder, Wolfeboro, N.H.

Secretary-Treasurer, David T. Alexander

Directors (7):

Paul Boseo, New York, NY

Thomas K. DeLorey, Chicago, IL

Dr. Thomas Fitzgerald, Los Angeles, CA

R.W. Julian, Logansport, IN

H. Joseph Levine, Alexandria, VA

Robert Sather, Vallejo, CA

Pete Smith, Minneapolis, MN

These elected leaders offer MCA a wealth of experience, knowledge and dedication to medal collecting. We ask that all members give them the support they deserve.

PROGRESS AND GROWTH: 1990 AND 1999

In our first year we created our first newsletter and laid the foundations for our journal, *The Medal Cabinet*. MCA received wonderful support such publications as *COINage*, *Coin World*, *Numismatic News* and the American Numismatic Association journal, *The Numismatist*. Medallie Art Company, Dayton, Nevada, provided our first corporate gift of \$500. Prominent dealers including Stack's, Presidential Coin and Antique, Bowers & Merena offered counsel and support.

Stacks donated books and medals for MCA's use and included MCA membership applications in catalogues that contained significant medal offerings. With this kind of help, MCA's goal for 1998 and 1999 was to lay a secure foundation by focusing on for realistic goals. MCA will "set the world on fire" in due course, but only from a solid foundation.

For example, opening a bank account in New York State proved to be a major challenge. Neither banks nor S & L's in this state are eager to help a non-profit organization that is not legally incorporated. Academic Federal Credit Union of Pleasantville, NY, was prepared to help us in our present stage of development, and our funds are safe and secure in this Credit Union's custody. A report on this was delivered at the second annual meeting.

A basic reality with which we must work is TIME. All Steering Committee members worked full-time (as do most of our new Board members, even if officially retired!), either in the numismatic or business worlds. All had to find the time to devote to MCA. With our new Board in position, it should be possible to increase the pace through the year 2000.

We should ask ourselves an important, basic question. What will each of us "get out" of MCA? Are we "getting our money's worth?" Put another way, is MCA a kind of savings bank from we should expect to draw full value? I think not. Our \$20 dues are really a contribution to help launch a vehicle that will bring medal collecting into its own. Your Steering Committee strove and its successor Board will continue to strive to provide as much for our members in publications, meetings and activities as circumstances permit. **I believe, however, that our memberships are more an affirmation of faith in and love for medal collecting than a business investment.**

MCA will achieve its objectives with your input and support. To paraphrase the late President Kennedy, we should not be asking what MCA can do for us, but what we can do for MCA!

THE FIRST ANNUAL CARL W. A. CARLSON AWARD

MCA's first award was created in 1998 and named for noted research cataloguer Carl W.A. Carlson. Many of our members knew Carl during his tenure as curator of the Garrett Collection at the Johns Hopkins University or during his years as a cataloguer with Paramount, NASCA and Stack's. Carl pioneered the concept of "Research Cataloguing," which strove to combine in-depth numismatic research with auction catalogue descriptions of important historical medals.

His contributions to NASCA's great catalogue of the Kessler-Spangenberg Collection set a new standard for quality of writing, research and description of U.S. Colonial, U.S. Mint and significant privately struck American medals. His published articles, public presentations and appearances on in convention forums were too numerous to record here.

Carl was never one to shrink from debate in his findings and he is greatly missed by his medal collecting colleagues. Serious illness has removed Carl from active participation in the world of numismatics, but MCA is grateful to his wife Pat for permission to honor Carl with the name MCA's first award.

The MCA membership was polled in our second newsletter. It was determined that the first recipient of the Carl W.A. Carlson award would be Boston medal researcher and writer John W. Adams. Our first Carlson Award laureate has carved out a major niche in modern research and writing in such diverse fields as the history of American auctions and the medal. His studies of the development of Colonial Indian Peace Medals and the *Comitia Americana* medals issued under the Continental Congress place him in the first rank of the new generation of students of the American medal.

MCA believes that John W. Adams personifies our organization's thrust toward research, collecting and publication in the field of the medal. His labors in the field should be an inspiration to all of our members, encouraging them to aspire to the finest in our field of interest.

WHAT DOES MCA NEED?

MCA's primary needs are TIME and DEDICATION. Money we have for the moment. In the interests of more frequent publication, would any member volunteer to serve as Newsletter Editor? Member Pete Smith has volunteered to serve MCA as Research Librarian, does he not point the way for the rest of us. Perhaps a Membership Director who could help track our membership list, help with mailing cards and notices in the near future. Remember, we can do all things only if we all pitch in.

CONSTITUTION OF MEDAL COLLECTORS OF AMERICA, 1999

NAME

ARTICLE I

The Name of this not-for-profit organization shall be Medal Collectors of America, hereinafter called MCA.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES

The purposes of MCA are:

- 1) To foster the collecting and study of world and American art and historical medals and to encourage research and publication in the medal field.
- 2) To bring together all interested in the medal field through meetings, publications and activities.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in MCA shall be open to all persons of good character who subscribe to the purposes of the organization and pay the requisite membership dues. Types of membership shall be as follows:

- 1) Charter --- all members joining between August 1, 1998 and August 31, 1999. To insure harmony, MCA will not issue membership numbers, but Charter members shall be recorded in MCA membership records by the designation C-1998 or C-1999.
- 2) Regular --- all members accepted after August 31, 1999.
- 3) Honorary Life --- those honored by this category of membership who shall be unanimously elected to this category by the Board of Directors after August 31, 1999. Honorary Life members shall not be required to pay dues but shall exercise all the rights of Charter or Regular members.

Membership fee and annual dues will be as follows:

Regular Annual dues will be \$20.00 per year.

The Board of Directors shall have full discretionary authority to admit or expel members or to decline to renew any membership.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Officers and Directors elected at the Second Annual Meeting and their lawful successors shall have general charge and control of the affairs, funds and property of MCA; such authority shall extend to and include but not be limited to the right to conduct the affairs and carry on the operation of MCA, to authorize the acquisition, sale, lease or transfer of all real or personal property.

- 1) Elected Officers of MCA shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 2) The Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) members elected at large by the members in good standing in attendance at the Annual Meeting of August 12, 1999. Thereafter the Board shall be elected by mail ballot of all members in good standing who return such ballots. All MCA members shall be eligible to run for office in the organization.
- 3) Candidates for the officer or Board positions in regular mail ballot elections after August 1999 must be nominated in writing by at least three MCA members in good standing. Such nominations must be received by the President not later than June 15 of each election year.
- 4) Those nominees receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be elected to each office or directorship.
- 5) Vacancies shall be filled as they occur between elections by appointment by the President with the approval of the Board. Such appointees will serve for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor until the next election.
- 6) Appointive Officers. The Editor shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board. The Board shall have the authority to create additional appointive officers at need.

Duties of Officers and Directors:

- 1) The President shall preside at all Board, membership and program meetings of MCA, shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees and shall appoint the chairpersons of all such committees with the approval of the Board.
- 2) The Vice President shall preside at all meetings which the President is unable to attend and shall perform such other duties as the President may direct.
- 3) The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of each regular or Board meeting and shall if required by the Board carry out all correspondence of MCA.
- 4) The Treasurer shall be custodian of the funds of MCA; shall collect all dues and financial contributions; shall disburse the funds of MCA in accordance with the Officers and Board headed by the President; shall keep full and accurate accounts; shall be prepared to present statements at the Annual Meetings of MCA and upon request at Board meetings; and perform such others as the Board may require.
- 5) The Editor shall prepare and publish the MCA newsletter (*MCA Advisory*) and the MCA journal (*The Medal Cabinet*), including such articles by members or guest writers, MCA news and reports and all other matter deemed appropriate.

Terms of Office:

Officers and Directors shall serve a two-year term beginning with the election at the Annual Meeting of August 12, 1999. No elected Officer or Director shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms. Such Officers and Directors will be eligible for election only after a two-year interval.

Parliamentary Authority:

Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, MCA will be guided by the rules set forth in the most recent edition of Roberts' Rules of Order Revised.

ARTICLE V

BOARD AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

- 1) An Annual Meeting will be held each year during the convention of the American Numismatic Association. Reports of MCA Officers and Directors shall be delivered at the Annual Meeting and
- 2) Board meetings shall be held at the convention of the American Numismatic Association or at any other time at the request of the President or any three (3) Board members.
- 3) A Quorum for the transaction of business at Board meetings shall consist of not less than four (4) Board members present and voting in addition to the President.

ARTICLE VI

AWARDS

MCA shall present at each Annual Meeting such awards as the Board shall deem appropriate. The purpose of all MCA awards shall be the fostering and recognition of excellence in medallic research, writing and publishing, and for outstanding service to MCA.

- 1) The **Carl W.A. Carlson Award** (established 1998) shall be the highest recognition of MCA. The Carlson Award will recognize outstanding research and writing in the medal field. The recipient shall be selected by ballot of Officers and Board. Each Officer and Director shall nominate one candidate, who shall then be selected by majority vote of the Officers and Board. Such vote will be taken in writing not later than July 15 of each year.
- 2) MCA shall create and bestow such other awards as the Board may from time to time decide.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the MCA Constitution may be proposed by any Board member. Such Amendments shall be presented in writing to the Board for mail vote or voice vote at a regularly called Board meeting. To be adopted, all Amendments must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the Officers and Board, i.e. six (6) affirmative votes.

ARTICLE VIII

TERM OF EXISTENCE AND DISPOSITION UPON TERMINATION

MCA shall have a perpetual existence. In the event of dissolution, all assets shall be donated to one or more organizations deemed by the Officers and Board to be most closely allied to the objects of MCA.

NEXT: *THE MEDAL CABINET*

The first number of MCA's major research publication, *The Medal Cabinet*, is almost ready for the press. Included in the first issue are major articles by John W. Adams, David T. Alexander, Paul Bosco, Michael J. Hodder, Theodore McCann, Scott Miller, Pete Smith, Mrs. Elizabeth Stanfield; book reviews, new and other features relating to both American and World medallic subjects.

We will be using high quality coated paper, a profusion of illustrations and a boldly designed cover. To defray this cost we are soliciting advertising from all interested dealer and collectors. Cost: 1 full page, (outside dimension 8 ½ x 11 inches), 1 insertion: \$200; half page, \$100, quarter page \$50. We have elected to take the time to assure quality rather than speed for its own sake. We feel certain that the time has been well invested and are sure that the membership will agree when the finished product is in hand.

SPECIAL NOTE: if for any reason you did not receive either of the first issues of *MCA Advisory*, please contact David T. Alexander, (212) 582-2580 days, (914) 628-7535 after 7 pm. We have experienced an occasional mailing list glitch, but we will cheerfully provide missing copies if requested.